

Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
Guidelines and Procedures
Alternative Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)
2007 Quick Reference Guide*

What is an APPLA?

An Alternative Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) is a last-resort permanency option once reunification, adoption by kin, permanent guardianship by kin, or non-kin adoption resources have been exhausted and/or have been determined not to be in the best interests of the child.

How does an APPLA fit into the CFSA's Permanency Planning Policy?

It is the policy of the Child and Family Services Agency to prepare for permanence through a comprehensive case planning and teaming approach that includes a participatory process with families. Each child shall have an assessment by his or her assigned social worker to determine which of the four prioritized permanency goals is most appropriate. These goals include reunification, adoption by kin, permanent guardianship with kin, or non-kin adoption. Goals shall be discussed at administrative reviews and, when necessary, at specially convened staffings whereby the Agency shall then determine the most suitable recommendation to be delivered to the Court. Only in rare situations when the four prioritized permanency goals have been determined not to be in the best interests of the child may case planning involve an alternative planned permanent living arrangement (i.e. independent living).

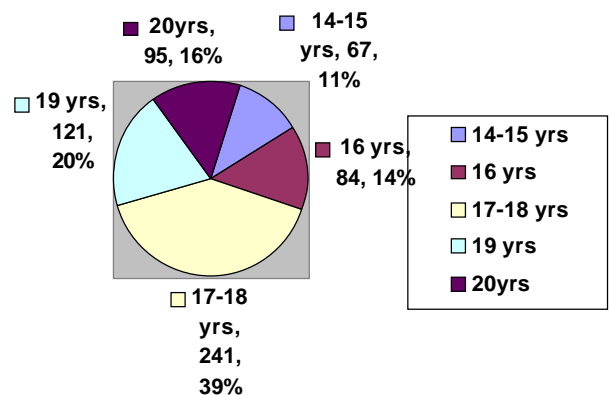
Criteria for APPLA

The goal of an APPLA shall be used under the following circumstances:

Agency and contracted agency personnel have exhausted efforts to achieve the four prioritized goals and the APPLA is determined to be in the youth's best interest.

1. The youth is at least sixteen (16) years old.
2. A Program Manager has approved the APPLA goal.
3. The youth has been or will be enrolled in a program designed to develop a youth's independent living skills, including a reasonable expectation of securing an adequate income and housing.
4. The individual case plan shall include steps to ensure a long-term, positive and supportive adult relationship so that the youth is still engaged with a responsible parent figure after the case is closed.

**# and % of Children 14 and Older
with APPLA Goals**



Concurrent Planning and Best Practice Principles

Teenagers have an emotional need to be in permanent homes with loving parents, caregivers or significant adult role models in their lives. When out-of-home placement is necessary, we encourage concurrent permanency planning to include reunification, kinship placement, guardianship or adoption. If reunification or permanent guardianship/adoption with kin is not possible, in keeping with Best Practice principles, facilitation towards a permanent non-kin or adoptive home is still requisite before considering an APPLA. CFSA's intent shall always be to expedite permanency through concurrent planning, and to reduce the likelihood of multiple placements.

* See the Permanency Planning Policy for detailed contents and procedures